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The Hartford News

February 25 – March 3, 2021



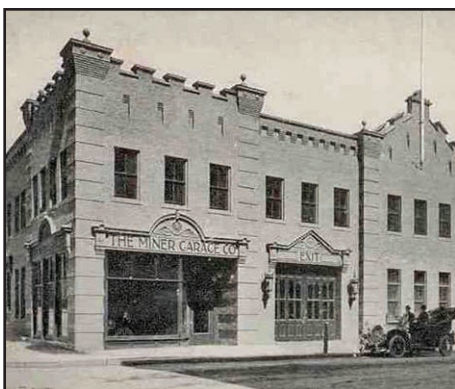
Gone, But Not Forgotten

Should these Hartford buildings have been saved? Yes, and here's why.

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

"That's a great question!" was Mary Falvey's immediate response when the Hartford News asked if she would name her top five choices for city structures of the past that were demolished, but could—and should—have been preserved. Earlier this month, the Hartford Preservation Alliance Director released the organization's annual list of Hartford's ten most endangered buildings. Number one on that list is the G. Fox copper-clad pedestrian bridge on Talcott Street that connects the 960 Main Street structure with the former warehouse (now a parking garage slated for demolition) across the street. Coming up mid-March is a hearing with Shelbourne, the property's owner/developer, as to what efforts are being made to preserve the historic and unique iconic bridge—a city landmark. Working for preservation is a labor of love, and often it's hard labor. Mary decries the incidences where city properties have been sold to a developer, with plans for new construction on those sites in place, and then the buildings were razed leaving nothing but empty lots for many years—even decades. Here's her top five list of the "fallen".

1.) Miner Garage Company at the corner of Allyn & High Streets:



It was believed to be the first building in Hartford designed solely for the repair, sales, and storage of automobiles. The garage was built by Henry C. Judd and rented back to his former bookkeeper Samuel A. Miner. Built in a castle-like style, it had showrooms, offices,

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Motorcade & Protest at Governor's Residence

On Saturday, February 20, the Recovery for All coalition held a large motorcade and demonstration in front of the Governor's Residence on Prospect Avenue in Hartford. Protestors were there to urge Governor Ned Lamont and the Connecticut Legislature to pass a budget that provides adequate funding education, healthcare and other vitally needed services. The Recovery for All coalition is a coalition of community, faith and labor organizations focused on "reducing income inequality and ensuring that Connecticut's economic recovery is shared by all." Shown above is Guadalupe Garcia of Unidad Latina en Acción (ULA) addressing the crowd, while behind her Megan Fountain get ready to translate her words. (Hart photo)

Hartford...Once Upon a Time



This sturdy steel truss bridge once carried Walnut Street over the tracks of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, just north of Union Station. The bridge stood for many years (this shot was taken in the 1920s) but was replaced by a less distinguished structure when I-84 was built through the area in the late 1950s and early 1960s. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)

NEWS BRIEFS

Apply Now for Free EMT Training Course

American Medical Response, the nation's leading ambulance company will be conducting a special Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program for Hartford area residents starting next month. The training is free and trainees will be paid as they learn. To qualify, you must be 18 years or older; have a high school degree or GED; have all the proper immunizations; and successfully complete a pre-employment screening, drug test, criminal and motor vehicle background check, and a physical agility test. Applications are due Friday, March 12. The course will run March 29 - June 11 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and some Saturdays. Upon completing the program and obtaining a State of Connecticut EMT Certification, the trainee will be promoted to a part-time EMT-B with a commensurate pay increase. An online application is available at: www.amr.net/careers. For more information, please email brandon.bartell@gmr.net.

Library Starts New Chess Club

DIG USA is partnering with Hartford Public Library to teach chess to Hartford students between Grades 9-12. Every student that participates will receive free meals delivered to feed the entire family each week and a tournament official chess set and chess clock along with a bag for the chess pieces. The group meets Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 7-8pm. No experience necessary. Must attend a high school in Hartford. Professional chess coaches. Chess Set and Chess Clock provided. Email scarr@hplct.org for more information.

HeartBeat Ensemble Youth Play Institute

HeartBeat Ensemble is now offering paid theatre internships for those 16-

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Vaccines, Variants, and More: *What we need to know now*

BY DONNA SWARR

On Feb 18th a Zoom meeting organized by the Working Families party City Councilors, Wildaliz Bermudez and Josh Michtom, was held to allow residents to ask more questions about Coronavirus and the vaccines; a Spanish translator was also present. Participants included Dr. Rebecca Eleck-Bruce, Director of the Wheeler family health Clinic; Paul Anthony, Medical Director of Occupational Health and Assistant Director of Infectious Disease at Hartford Hospital; and Keith Grant, APRN Senior System Director and Infection Prevention at Hartford HealthCare. Several leadership members of local unions were also on the panel to ask questions for their membership.

The panel weighed in:

Dr. Eleck-Bruce acknowledged that hesitancy is real and well-founded. African- Americans and Latinos have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic healthwise, economically, and in the workforce. She’s been hearing questions from clients about the vaccines that can be answered by going to the Wheeler Clinic website and clicking on the Crush Covid link. There is an FAQ in both English and Spanish.

Many people have asked about the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine’s ingredients, and she said they’re very similar to the flu vaccines, but with the addition of mRNA, messenger ribonucleic acid. The mRNA molecules teach the body how to recognize the protein. Vaccination will not give you the virus.

People have also asked about variants of the Coronavirus. The vaccines are effective against the UK variant, but the South African variant’s effectiveness isn’t known. If you do contract the virus after being vaccinated, you’re less likely to need hospitalization. She stressed the need to continue wearing a mask, washing your hands and practicing social distancing as enough is not yet known about transmission. One possible side effect from the first dose is a sore arm, similar to getting a tetanus shot. With the second dose there may be flu-like symptoms, such as a temperature lasting 24 hours. The reaction means your body is activating protection from the virus. Health professionals aren’t seeing long term side effects, which can show up after 2 months. What if you are pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant? The virus won’t impact your ability to get pregnant, but doctors are encouraging women who are pregnant to get vaccinated, as the virus can have serious effects on unborn children.

Dr Anthony’s advice: get tested. There is an antibody treatment for those with symptoms, which can be taken to avoid hospitalization. Persons who are high risk-over 65, diabetic, or overweight—who test positive need to contact their doctor and ask about treatment. There are more treatments now, but prevention needs to be practiced first. Wear a mask, practice social distancing, and get your vaccine when you’re eligible.

Keith Grant said the timing of therapy and treatment is important. Ask about antibody infusion if you get the virus. Talk to your doctor as soon as possible. The reason Connecticut is doing so well is due to the community’s compliance with prevention measures. He recommended that you become an advocate for vaccination and treatments.

The city’s Health & Human Services Director, Liany Arroyo, said that currently, 7% of Hartford residents (about13,000 people) have received their first dose. That number is lower than other towns or cities due to number who were eligible. H&HS does not provide vaccinations, but are working with partners to do testing in our neighborhoods and schools, and ensuring easy access for residents to get appointments. The three issues that she’s working to address are technology, transportation, and language barriers. VAM, the federal appointment system, is really challenging to use and it requires an email address. The city set up a very simple form to fill out online or you can call. You’ll get an informational phone call and they’ll schedule an appointment for you, which should resolve any obstacles. The city will also provide transportation to your appointment. They’ve been using shuttles as well as some taxis. Those who don’t speak or read English can leave a message in Spanish. For other languages they’ll use an interpretation line.

The public asked questions:

After 10 days of being infectious, is it safe to go back to work if you get another positive result? Even after 6 months, the test will keep picking up that you have had the virus, but it is safe to go back to work.

How can we overcome the hesitancy to vaccinate? Keith Grant said that many institutions are struggling as to how to communicate. They don’t have the answer right now, so partnerships are important. Liany Arroyo said it’s important that there’s “no wrong door to knock on”, and to have access to other locations when scheduling so that if a facility is booked, they can look else-

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Two New Saint Francis Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

Saint Francis Hospital has opened two new neighborhood COVID-19 vaccine clinics in Hartford, which are open to people based on the state’s guidelines for vaccine eligibility.

One is at Parker Memorial Community Center at 2621 Main St. It is open from 8 a.m. to 3:40 p.m., Monday through Friday and is only for people with appointments.

The second clinic is open at the South End Wellness Center at 830 Maple Ave. It is also by appointment only. It is open from 8:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Easiest Ways For Those Age 65 And Over Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Online:

ct.gov/covicvaccine: State of CT: Put your zip code in top corner

HartfordHealthCare.org/vaccine: Hartford Healthcare (Hartford Hospital):

TrinityHealthOfNE.org/appointment: Trinity Healthcare (St. Francis Hospital)

City of Hartford:

https://www.hartfordct.gov.

There is a link at the top of the City of Hartford website to the City Vaccine Interest Online Form. They will help residents age 65+ to get an appointment. It

does ask if you have insurance, but you will not be charged.

By Phone:

Multilingual State Line: 877-918-2224, M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Significant improvement have been made to the state line, very short wait.

Multilingual Hartford Healthcare Line: 860-827-7690, M-F 8 am - 5 pm

Multilingual City Health Dept: 860-757-4830, M-F 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. City is expanding staffing to answer calls.



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Hartford HealthCare Comes Through

Your reporter’s family has had a relationship with the Hartford HealthCare system since the 1990s and has seen it grow, change and become a major factor in the city, the state and, we guess, the American healthcare system as a whole.

Recently we had an experience with home care (not our first time to the rodeo) for several months with good results and great memories of the caring and professional staff.

two-fold. First, is to thank the medical professionals who worked with us for the great service they provided to us. Also, and this should get more attention, for their quick response to requests for the COVID-19 vaccine for those who are homebound and, in some cases, their caregivers. Some have said, “Just go get a shot.” Well, for most people that’s fine. But, for those who have trouble getting around, particularly getting in and out of a

But, for those who have trouble getting around, particularly getting in and out of a car and in bad weather, and for those who have other things limiting their ability to get to one of the mass vaccine clinics the City is having, the chance to get the shots in the warmth, comfort and security of your own home is quite a plus – maybe a literal life-saver.

Sometimes bigger is not always better, but it seems as though Hartford HealthCare has been able to keep and satisfy the professionals they send out for home care in Hartford.

It must be a tough job for those who work the city: apartment access, security, unplowed streets and sidewalks, out of code housing conditions, etc. Fortunately, in our case, those negative factors didn’t arise. But we hear that the professionals trudge on, do the job regardless of the conditions they face.

Now, the reason for this article is

car and in bad weather, and for those who have other things limiting their ability to get to one of the mass vaccine clinics the City is having, the chance to get the shots in the warmth, comfort and security of your own home is quite a plus – maybe a literal life-saver.

We’ve also been told that Hartford HealthCare is just one of the few systems in the country offering such service. If so, shame on the rest and even more credit to our home-grown health provider.

OPINION

A Response to the Desegregate Connecticut Movement

BY MICHELLE BRODSKY

Throughout the past few months, the grassroots movement “Desegregate Connecticut” has gained momentum throughout the state. Led by Sara Bronin, the movement seeks to, “expand housing diversity, increase housing supply, and improve the development process.” While this sounds positive, the bill introduced by proponents of this agenda would abolish home-rule, giving all zoning control to the state government. This one-size-fits-all approach ignores the individual needs of established working- and middle-class communities, denying them the right to structure their neighborhoods as they see fit. Proponents of the bill assert that Connecticut is deeply segregated, with Black people living in multi-family housing and their white counterparts in homes on two-acre suburban properties. While there are housing disparities in Connecticut, the assumption that these disparities are only the result of skin color is unfounded. Economist Walter E. Williams wrote, “The portrayal of Blacks as helpless victims of slavery and later gross discrimination has become popular wisdom. But the facts of the matter do not square

with that portrayal.”

While there are a variety of factors that contribute to inequity, racism is not the most prominent. Instead of forcing multi-family housing units to be erected throughout the state, we should be focusing on educational reform. Studies such as one by Susan Dynarski, professor of Public Policy at the University of Michigan have shown that “low income, non-white students in urban areas tend to do better if enrolled in charter schools instead of traditional public schools.” And other studies have also demonstrated that education is a key determinant of future success. Despite this, Democrat politicians refuse to enact any change. Instead, they continue to be champions of public education, even though “Connecticut ranks among the worst in terms of racial equality in education” according to Connecticut journalist Rob Polansky. The solution to segregation in Connecticut is a massive reform of our education system, not ineffectual solutions to fabricated problems.

Instead of forcibly integrating people of different socio-econom-

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sarah Rector – Child Millionaire

BY DARA A. JOHNSON

Not only did I find this an interesting story, but also one I had never even heard of. I was amazed as I read about Sarah and her family’s story, and all they had to endure in 1900 America.

Sarah was born in 1902 and reportedly became with wealthiest black girl in the nation at the age of eleven. She lived with her family in Taft, Oklahoma, a predominately black town, although they were members of the Muscogee Creek nation.

Her parents, who were formerly enslaved by Creek tribal members were entitled to land allotments under the Dawes Act of 1887. As a result, hundreds of black children, or “Creek Freedman Minors” were granted 160 acres each of land as Indian Territory to form the state of Oklahoma in 1907. This, in and of itself was not unusual, but the condition of lands usually given to former slaves were usually rocky and infertile. Sarah’s allotment was in the middle of the Glen Pool oil fields and was initially valued at approximately \$550.00.

Due to her father’s financial hardship, he ended up leasing a parcel of her land to a major oil company sometime in 1911 to help him pay his annual property taxes. Two years later, Sarah’s fortune ballooned due to an independent



oil driller who produced a “gusher” on her land that brought in 2,500 barrels, or 105,000 gallons per day. Therefore, she began earning more than \$300 per day in 1913.

She literally became an overnight sensation. In September 1913, the Kansas City Star local newspaper published the following headline: “Millions to a Negro Girl – Sarah Rector has income of \$300 per day From Oil.”

I can only imagine being her age with “human vultures” at every turn and not really have any life skills or wherewithal to differentiate the good from the bad. She received many marriage proposals, requests for loans, money and

gifts. During this time, a law required Native Americans, black adults and children, who were citizens of Indian Territory, with significant property and money to be assigned “well respected” white guardians. As a result, Rector’s guardianship switched from her parents to a white man named TJ Porter, who mismanaged her money. It was reported that she was poorly dressed, lived in a shack and did not attend school. Therefore, when NAACP leaders learned of this, they fought to protect her and her fortune.

By the time she turned 18 Rector was worth an estimated \$1 million. She also owned stocks and bonds, a boarding house and restaurant in Muscogee and two thousand acres of land.

In 1922 she married a man who was the first black man to own an auto dealership. They had three sons and were recognized as local royalty, driving expensive cars and entertaining elites like Joe Louis, Duke Ellington and Count Basie at their home. They divorced in 1930 and Rector remarried in 1934. Sadly, she lost most of her land and other assets during the Great Depression. She died at age 65 on July 22, 1967 with only some working oil wells and real estate holdings.



Yard Goats play 60 home games this season

Hartford Yard Goats’ President Tim Restall announces that his team will play the first of its 60 home games this year on Tuesday, May 11, against the Portland Sea Dogs. Restall and Mayor Luke Bronin made the announcement at a press conference at the stadium on Thursday, February 18 during a snowstorm. For the 2021 season, the Yard Goats will now compete in the Northeast Division, facing affiliates for the Yankees, Red Sox, and Mets among others. Teams will now play six-game home stands, with a league-wide day off on Mondays. (Hart photo)

On the Subject of Race Relations:

A Personal Memoir

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

Once upon a time in the hot summer of 1977, I was riding the trains across southern Europe, preparing for what became a 2-year sojourn. On one such ride, I walked over to the hallway of the coach to catch a breeze from an opened window. A white South African approached that same window and we began idle chit chat. At one point, he mentioned that I should visit South Africa and maybe settle down there. I asked him why? He responded that there was plenty of opportunity to thrive in the business world and that the labor was cheap. I quickly surmised the implications of his remark. I only remembered there being silence after that remark as I returned to my seat. I knew Nelson

Mandela had been imprisoned in his fight for freedom. And this man very casually expressed cheap labor as inconsequence to racial inequity in his homeland.

I eventually settled in Florence, Italy, and had only been in town a few days. I initially stayed at one of the low-priced *pensiones*, which were dormitory-style rooming houses. The sleeping quarters often had 4 to 6 bunk beds and cost about \$4 a night. After a few days, I had discovered the cheapest eats in town: the student cafeteria at the University of Florence. The price for a three-course meal plus a small bottle of wine cost about 60 cents. One evening, I

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GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS

Scouting, then and now

BY MARIE SULTANA ROBINSON

“Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold”. It’s a song that’s been sung by Girl Scouts for close to 100 years. Recently, I asked my local Facebook neighborhood if any Girl Scouts were selling cookies. While chatting with the Girl Scout Brownie leader, she asked why I bought cookies. I told her that I had been a Girl Scout many years ago, and that I bought at least one box of cookies every year. She then me invited to speak to several troops of Brownies and Daisies in the metro Hartford area.

I was as just eager to find out how the Girl Scouts organization had changed as they were eager to find out what I had done when I became a Brownie in 1964.

There have been many changes, but there have been more things that have stayed the same. As a little girl I loved to play with my Barbie. There was only one style of Barbie back then, but now there are Barbies and a new craze, “LOL dolls”. One proud Brownie showed off her Indian Barbie when I commented that an exchange student who came with her parents to the United States for two months joined our troop, and had a sari as a uniform. The girls like playing various games on Roblox, Minecraft, and chatting with one another on Messenger Kids.

We all agreed jump rope and s'mores are fun.

Making a small first aid kit is still important, and although it's changed, the mission is still the same; safety.

The uniforms have changed since I was a Brownie and a Girl Scout. Daisies have been added as a



younger group and everyone can now earn badges. These girls love getting their badges as much as I did, and I showed them my old Brownie handbook. They like to talk via Zoom and Messenger, especially since COVID, just as I also loved sitting around talking to my fellow Brownies when I was a girl.

We all enjoyed crafts and camping outings. In fact, I've been invited to a backyard campout with s'mores when COVID is over. As an ancient Brownie, I can't wait.

Girl Scouts is a very empowering group, and has been since it was formed in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, who was affectionately called “Daisy”.

Please support your local troop during cookie time. Over the years these funds have sent girls to camp, Washington, D.C., Mexico, Russia and more--many adventures they otherwise would not have experienced--as a group of empowered young women. A great number of Girl Scouts have gone on to hold high office, and to do good things in their community. The cookie finder will help you locate a troop that’s selling cookies in your area. Either text COOKIES to 59618 or go to <https://www.gsocfct.org/en/cookies-plus/find-cookies.html>

There are now six levels of Girl Scouting: Daisies (Kindergarten-1st grade); Brownies (2nd-3rd grade); Juniors (4th-5th grade); Cadettes (6th-8th grade); Seniors (9th-10th grade); and Ambassadors (11th-12th grade). For more information on troops in the Hartford area, call (800) 922-2770.

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News & Views



HARTFORD
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ASYLUM HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

From the
Executive Director
BY DAVID MACDONALD

AHNA Embarks on Neighborhood Strategic Planning

AHNA is beginning the new year with recently updated bylaws and a busy agenda for 2021. The Farmington Avenue Alliance has been resurrected and will work to ensure the needed streetscape improvements to Farmington Avenue are completed from the Trident all the way to the West Hartford border. AHNA has also decided it's time to update the Neighborhood Strategic Plan, which was last completed in 2009.

The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association's biggest project in 2021 will be to update the Neighborhood Strategic Plan. AHNA held a Board of Director's retreat on January 30 and decided on the process to use to update the plan and respond to the changes that have happened since 2009, such as the I-84 project. The AHNA Board established a Steering Committee and 8 Task Forces that will develop recommendations on their topics. The chairs of the Task Forces will serve on the Steering Committee along with representatives from stakeholders and residents in Asylum Hill. The Steering Committee will recommend the Strategic Plan to the AHNA Board and membership. The Task Forces that have been established include

Employment, Public Safety, Economic Development, Human Services, Arts and Culture, Environment (Green), Youth Enrichment and Education, and Housing, Historic Preservation and Blight Remediation. The Steering Committee will be majority Asylum Hill residents.

The Hartford recently conducted a survey of Asylum Hill that identified 3 top priorities of the neighborhood as employment/jobs, housing/homelessness, and public safety. AHNA looks forward to partnering with the Hartford to incorporate these priorities into AHNA's update of our Neighborhood Strategic Plan, as well as identifying potential projects to address the priorities.

Watch for emails in March to sign up for any of the Task Forces. Task Forces will bring forward collaborative solutions to our neighborhood challenges to the Steering Committee. The Task Force meetings will be held via Zoom.

In additional AHNA news, AHNA acknowledged and honored the native land that Asylum Hill sits on at our February General Meeting. This statement will be read at the beginning of each General Meeting. The statement is: "We acknowledge and honor that Asylum Hill is on the traditional lands of the Pogonook, Sicoag, Tunxis and Wangunk tribes." These were all Algonquin speaking tribes of the CT river area. In countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and among tribal nations in the U.S., it is commonplace, even policy, to open events and gatherings by acknowledging the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of that land. While some individuals, and cultural and educational institutions in the United States have adopted this custom, the majority have not. #HonorNativeLand is a national movement to change this and AHNA supports honoring Native Lands.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Jennifer Cassidy

Our regular volunteer for this column has done something recent or specific to be featured. This month we should change the column name to "Volunteer of the Decades" Jennifer Cassidy first came to Asylum Hill when she grew tired of her commute from Unionville to her job at The Hartford. It wasn't long after renting an apartment on Laurel St that she fell in love with the beautiful Victorian architecture, and it wasn't long after that when 34-36 Ashley St became available. Jennifer said "I fell in love with the double front porch."

She credits Jonathan Clark with getting her involved in the neighborhood, first with the Sigourney Square Civic Association that focused on cleanup, safety and monthly meeting to get to know your neighbors. From there came Hill Housing Inc., where she served as chair for several years. It was the development arm of the Asylum Hill Organizing Project (AHOP). She was also a member of Asylum Hill Inc.

All of this took place before AHNA, then called the Asylum Hill Problem Solving Committee, that came into being in 1995. It was soon after that that she took over as the chair of the AHPSC for



about a year before Michelle McFarland joined her as co-chair.

Jennifer continued to be active in The Asylum Hill Problem Solving Revitalization Association (AHPSRA) as it was called and served on several different committees often as chair. Her favorites were Housing and Transportation committees.

Then in 2008 and 09, we had the opportunity to rewrite a strategic plan for the neighborhood and Jennifer played an important role in that process as well. It was with the adoption of that plan that the change to Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association (AHNA) was made, and I think that was Jennifer's suggestion.

Perhaps the most important role that Jennifer accepted was as co-chair of the Welcoming

Committee along with Nancy Caddigan of Hartford Public Library. It began in 2012, as a partnership with The Hartford Public Library and through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Asylum Hill was chosen as the neighborhood to partner with due to the many newly arriving immigrants and refugees here as well as the active NRZ that AHNA had become. Jennifer and Nancy were key in organizing many events. One very memorable one was the New Voices of Asylum Hill program on June 20th, World Immigrants Day in 2014. It was a live event at CT Public featuring the stories of 7 immigrants told by them in their native languages with interpretation by members of the community. Jennifer spoke the story of Ganga a young Bhutanese girl speaking Nepalese. It was video recorded and is still available at <http://bit.ly/newvoicesAH>

Following that in 2015 was a month long arts event titled "We Are Asylum Hill" that featured works of art and performances, including a fashion show. All of this took place at various venues in Asylum Hill. Photos of many events are available at: <http://bit.ly/nvoices>

Change Matters

By Michelle R. McFarland

The world as we know has changed. Emotions are running rampant for relevant causes. We have been forced to change. There I said it, FORCED due to circumstances beyond our control. I have learned to accept change even if I don't expect it. Life happens without warning. COVID-19 is our new reality that includes mask and social distancing. Life happens without warning. We must move forward with purpose. Life is full pleasant surprises. I love having.... Old memories Old Friends with great energy. Old Clothes Old Shoes (sometimes) I have released my old negative attitude and energy with a sigh of relief. Being alive and loving myself is a full-time job during a pandemic. I am grateful. By approaching all things in a loving way, I anticipate positive outcomes often. Love is allowing me to accept the fact that people are doing the best that they can. The best advice is "Love Thy neighbor as yourself" Matthew 22:39 The truth is love unites us more than it divides us. Love Matters everyday.



CT Al-Anon Courage to Change Meeting

Strength and Hope for Friends and Families of Alcoholics – Meetings are available almost everyday.

A full list of Zoom accessible meetings can be found at www.ctalanon.org Please look at Meetings by Town for the most updated information

For more meeting times and information about Al-Anon visit www.alanon.org or call 1-888-8ALANON (1-888-825-2666)

EXPLORING ASYLUM HILL

COVID Vaccine Availability

As vaccines become available, it's important that as many Asylum Hill residents as possible both know who can receive them now, and where to go, first to schedule the vaccine and then where to go to get it. The purpose of this months article is to help in that regard.

First, It's important to understand that all of us will be safer when each of us is vaccinated. Based on what the medical community has learned in the past year, masks and social distancing are very effective at slowing the spread, but neither is as effective as the vaccine at preventing the consequences. We all need to heal together.

Those who can receive the vaccine now include Healthcare Personnel, Long-Term Care Facility Residents, Medical First Responders including Emergency Medical Technicians, Police, and Fire, Individuals 65 and older and residents and staff of select congregate settings.

The easiest source is Wheeler Clinic at 43 Woodland Street, where Individuals ages 65+ and Phase 1a-eligible individuals



(healthcare providers and medical first responders) can now get the vaccine. Wheeler is transitioning away from the VAMS (Vaccine Administration Management System), which the others use, and setting appointments by calling their Navigation Center at 860-793-3500. When you call that number they ask you to press 2 to schedule an appointment, press 1 for the vaccine, and then 1 for English or 2 for Spanish. They then ask for your name, date of birth and phone # so that some one can call you back in the next day or so to complete the scheduling.

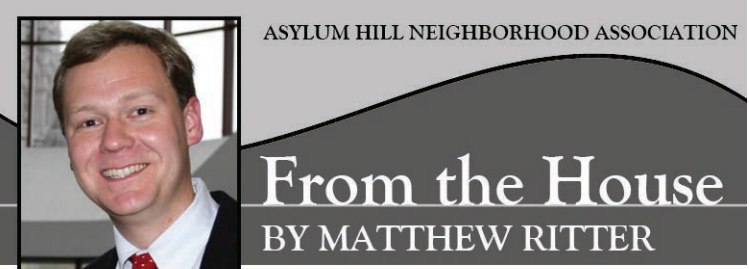
Saint Francis at 260 Ashley St, and Walgreens at 1291 Woodland St both use The Vaccine Administration Management System that requires appointments over the Internet. To use that method, click on <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19/Vaccinations~VAMS-Support>. You'll be able to schedule your appointment that way, and choose whatever is most convenient for you. Be sure to bring your Photo ID, and insurance card, if you have one (not required, but helpful). Transportation can be scheduled by calling 860-757-9311.

If you have any other questions or need any special assistance you can call 860-858-1410 for help from an AHNA volunteer.



AH Then & Now - 85 Sigourney St

The photo above is from the Library of Congress' Historic American Building Survey and was taken in 1981 by Don Belliveau. It is one of four photos in the series that shows, this store front at 83-85 Sigourney St, which was originally built about 1865 as a two-family home. The accompanying text states "is the oldest surviving house on the southern side of Sigourney St. and documents a style infrequently found on Asylum Hill," being described as Italianate. Less than five years later, it was taken down to build the Aetna Training Facility, called ADPET by the employees for their sales staff, shown below. Since 1998 it has been the Hastings Hotel, the CT Culinary Institute and Lincoln Culinary Institute until 2017 when it closed. The buildings owners have been trying to find a use for it ever since. More photos can be found at <http://bit.ly/85SigLOC>



Our Responsibility to Those Left Behind During the Pandemic

We cannot ignore the stark reality that many people are suffering due to the pandemic. Unemployment is high, and disparities in wealth have become even more pronounced in the last year. Understandably, people are scared and exhausted.

Connecticut has a responsibility to help families recover from this pandemic, and that will lead to increased costs for education, health care and child care. That is why it is critical that Congress pass President Biden's stimulus package and include direct financial assistance for all 50 states.

Our state could receive about \$2.7 billion as part of the new stimulus package. When that happens, we should create a separate fund with the money from the stimulus package dedicated for COVID-related recovery needs. COVID has taught us a lot, including the importance of building a robust "rainy day" budget reserve for the state.

So, to be clear, Connecticut should have two distinct reserve funds. The first – the current "rainy-day" reserve fund – which protected us this year from a disastrous budget scenario - should be used sparingly and conservatively. The second reserve fund should be used to address COVID-related expenses.

The state's new COVID-response fund, created with federal stimulus dollars – would allow us to invest in after-school programs, small businesses, the arts, and health disparities. We should only use that fund to address the direct impacts of the pandemic.

If we are prudent in the use of these two funds, we will make our present better and our future more stable by avoiding broad tax increases, maintaining a healthy rainy-day reserve and continuing to pay down past state debt. It is our collective responsibility to chart a course that doesn't leave anyone behind.

Please contact me if I can ever be of any assistance. I can be reached at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, on Facebook @RepresentativeMattRitter or by phone at (860) 240-8489, if you have any questions or concerns.

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Hartford
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We extend our sincere
condolences for all those
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Hartford residents who wish to remember a loved one lost due to the pandemic are eligible to receive a wooden heart from the City of Hartford. The hearts can be decorated in honor and memory of the loved one who has passed on. This Spring, they will be placed in the Gardens of Hope which were planted with daffodils this Fall throughout the city.

Visit www.hartfordct.gov/hopegardens to reserve your heart today and view the locations where they can be placed this Spring. Or call Hartford 311 at 860-757-9311 for more details.

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Response to Desegregate CT

Continued from page 1

ic statuses, why don't we focus our efforts on educating our youth, ensuring they can raise their socio-economic status? Our education system has failed badly and we need to institute a money-follows-the-student voucher program so that our students can receive the highest quality of education. As a result, when they grow up, they will be able to move into any home they want, in any area they choose. Abolishing home-rule is putting a band-aid on a bullet hole, and will not fix any underlying problems. In fact, studies from the American

Economic Review, the Quarterly Journal of Economics, and the American Journal of Sociology, along with studies by the Department of Housing and Urban Development itself have found, "no discernible benefit to economic self-sufficiency, employment outcomes, and risky and criminal behavior for adults and children was observed as a result of moving. Similarly, moving to suburban areas had few positive effects on educational achievement for youth." This, combined with the fact that a great deal of opposition comes from middle-and working-class Blacks in the neighborhoods in question, should give pause to anybody contemplating such a policy. The Chicago Tribune reported the following statement by Shirley Newsome, a Black homeowner in Kenwood-Oakland, Illinois: "Some Blacks feel that 'those people' make it tough on those of us trying to make something of ourselves. That's why white America doesn't want me living next to them, because they look at me and figure I'm from a place like public housing."

Michelle Brodsky is a student at the University of Hartford

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Florida M. Griffin,
AKA Florida Griffin
(21-00111)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 5, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Allan J. Griffin
c/o Ralph J Alexander
Willard & Alexander, LLC
225 Oakland Rd, Ste 306,
South Windsor, CT 06074

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Hartford Buildings That Should have been Saved

Continued from page 1

and storage lockers on the first floor. An electric 10 x 20-foot elevator was used to bring cars to the 2nd floor for service and storage. With a few exceptions, automobile dealerships function today much as Mr. Miner's did 100 years ago. The large plate glass windows at the corner of the building were for the display of the latest car models for sale. The two large doors, center and right, were for the cars to enter and exit into the service bays. Separate waiting rooms were provided for ladies and gentlemen. An important function of these early garages was the storage of automobiles. Car owners who did not have carriage barns on their property needed a place to store their vehicles. Before the advent of individual garages or "car sheds," city residents would leave their automobiles at the garage where it would be stored as well as repaired, washed and in the case of the early electric vehicles, recharged. Miner's Garage was demolished to clear the site for development that never happened. It illustrates one of the top reasons why preservation matters – we rarely know the future value of a property. A few years ago, FIT Cars came to Hartford looking for a site near Union Station. Imagine what a

great fit it would have been to have a modern transportation business housed in the first commercial garage.

2.) Gideon Welles House,
9 Charter Oak Place

Welles was Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy during the Civil War. This was one of the few houses that were demolished on this historic street

3.) Broadcast House,
Constitution Plaza

We often think of historic preservation being only for Colonial and Victorian Era buildings, but our Mid-Century Moderns are now old enough to be considered historic and need careful consideration. The loss of Broadcast House also points to a fault in our demolition policy--allowing demolition, whether the structure is historic or not, when firm and financed development plans are not in place often leads to vacant lots. The added insult here is that this vacant lot is at one of the gateways into the city.

4.) Loew's Poli and Loew
Poli Palace on Main St.

The two grandest and most ornate movie theaters of the nine that once existed in Downtown Hartford were

demolished in 1964, along with many businesses and the apartments above them that covered the block between Gold & Wells Streets, to make way for the construction of Bushnell Plaza and later, the MDC building. While other Connecticut towns--New London, Stafford, Waterbury, and Torrington, to name a few--had the foresight to each preserve and restore one beautiful movie house as a thriving arts center and live performance venue, Hartford's were, sadly, all lost to history by the wrecking ball.

5.) Talcott Street
Congregational Church:

The church was established in 1833 by African-American members of the First Congregational Church who were unhappy with being forced into segregated seating during worship services. Slavery might have been abolished in antebellum Hartford and Connecticut, but racism and segregation were prominent. The church was located at the northwest corner of Talcott and Market Streets.

For more information on the Hartford Preservation Alliance, and how to get involved as a supporter or volunteer, please call 860-570-0331 or email info@hartfordpreservation.org.

Bill Katz Commentary

Continued from page 3

invited two roomies to join me; a Dutch boy and at the time, a Rhodesian boy. He was white. We reached the cafeteria at the busy hour. We gathered our trays and

looked around the room but there were no empty tables available. I found one table with a Nigerian student sitting by himself and walked over to ask if we could join him. He consented and I sat down. The Dutch boy sat down. As the Rhodesian boy approached, he hesitated and looked around the room. Perhaps by that time, another table had become free but I responded that we were here and to have a seat. Instead he walked over to another table.

I quickly got the message that his people didn't sit down with Black people. I didn't know if the Nigerian picked up the vibes but shortly after he finished eating and left, the Rhodesian got up and walked over to our table. I immediately told him he wasn't invited to sit with us. The Dutch boy tried to intervene but I insisted that, as a guest, he had insulted me. He walked back to his table. The Rhodesian had already mentioned how he had planned to stay in Florence for a week but early the next morning, I got up to use the

bathroom and I noticed his cot had been made up and he was gone.

I recall a feeling of sadness that day; a sadness not so much for the boy, although certainly I felt that for him as well. I often wondered how he internalized that incident. Did it make him question his own upbringing? I would like to think it did.

I thought that we young people were going to right the wrongs of our elders and change the world for the better. It was a fallacy. No, more likely that many of us would be doomed to follow in the same wrong footsteps of those who came before us. In 1964, Nelson Mandela was convicted of sabotage and sentenced to life imprisonment. By 1977, he had 13 more years of imprisonment left before receiving a pardon from President F. W. de Klerk.

Now, here we are in a new century almost fifty years later. Have things changed for the better? Some things have changed. And other things haven't changed.

AVISO LEGAL

El Consejo de Gobiernos de la Región del Capitolio (CRCOG) está buscando ayuda para el desarrollo de un Estudio de conectividad de Farmington. Puede encontrar una Solicitud de calificaciones, que incluye un alcance preliminar del trabajo, los requisitos de la firma consultora y las instrucciones de presentación en el sitio web del CRCOG en <http://crcog.org/rfprfq/>. Las preguntas deben dirigirse por escrito al personal del CRCOG indicado en la RFQ. El CRCOG debe recibir las declaraciones de calificaciones a más tardar a las 2:00 p.m. el martes 23 de marzo de 2021. Las respuestas recibidas después de esta fecha y hora no serán consideradas.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is seeking assistance with the development of a Farmington Connectivity Study. A Request for Qualifications, including a preliminary scope of work, consulting firm requirements, and submission instructions may be found on the CRCOG website at <http://crcog.org/rfprfq/>. Questions should be directed in writing to the CRCOG staff indicated in the RFQ. Statements of qualifications must be received by CRCOG no later than 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 23, 2021. Responses received after this date and time will not be considered.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Kenneth Leroy McMullin Jr.
(21-00159)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 19, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Angela Treleven-McMullin
123 Woodland Dr., Apt. 9H
Hartford, CT 06105

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
George Edward Twaits,
AKA George E. Twaits
(21-00154)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 17, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jason Edward Twaits
2484 Coraview Lane
Rowland Heights, CA 91748



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News Briefs

Continued from page 1

21 years of age. Training will be available in dramatic writing, poetry, acting, video editing and stage management. Interviews will be held this Sunday, February 20. The program will run from March 8 to May 5. All sessions are virtual. For an interview, email ypi@heartbeatensemble.org.

Interested in Joining KNOX’s Board of Directors?

On Wednesday, March 10, KNOX, Inc. will host a special ZOOM meeting for people who want to learn more about how you can share your passion for a cleaner and greener Hartford by becoming a member of the organization’s board of directors. To sign up to attend this info session featuring discussion with current members and discover how your experience and expertise can impact KNOX and our entire community, go to <https://bit.ly/35XTz9t>. You will receive an email invite to a ZOOM meeting details.

New Girls’ Life Skills Training Program

Charter Oak Boxing Academy (COBA), “Where Life is the Main Event,” is enrolling girls ages 8-18 interested in joining our “Girls Rise to Become Champions of

Life Program.” This life-changing program is centered on a ground-breaking girls curriculum and our nationally renowned amateur USA Boxing & Fitness Training Program. (Boxing is not required.) It is dedicated to nurturing strong, independent, confident young ladies so they can pursue their dreams. For more information, call (860) 951-0377.

Hartford Decides Info Meetings

How would you spend \$40,000 to improve your neighborhood? If you live in Hartford and are over 13 you can help decide. Hartford Decides is a program where residents present ideas on how funds can best be spent in their neighborhood. Find out more at two virtual informational meetings on Tuesday, March 2, at 7 pm and Thursday, March 4, at 7 pm. To register, please go to www.HartfordDecides.com.

Free Craft Project Bags for Kids

Register to receive your The City of Hartford Recreation Division is now offering FREE GRAB N GO CRAFTS projects bags for kids. Email recreation@hartford.gov or call (860)757-4880 with all your contact info to register, then come pick up your bag on Friday, Feb 26th between Noon - 3 PM.

Apply Now for KNOX Community Garden Plot

KNOX, Inc. is now accepting applications for plots in its numerous community gardens located throughout Hartford.

Garden plot sizes range from 300 square feet (15×20) to 625 square feet (25×25). KNOX gardeners receive free seeds, water, and as much advice as needed! KNOX staff, workshops, and library are wonderful resources for both new and experienced gardeners.

If you are interested in renting a community garden plot this year, visit www.knoxhartford.org or e-mail jenniferm@knoxhartford.org.

KNOX Community Gardens

- Aetna Garden, 45 Sigourney St.
- Affleck Garden, 158 Affleck St.
- Battles Street, 80 Battles St.
- Broad Street, 650 Broad St.
- Cabot Garden, 34 Cabot St.
- Dart Garden, 240 Dart St.
- Enfield Street, 122 Enfield St.
- Evergreen Garden, 40 Evergreen Ave.
- Good Shepherd, 167 Wyllys St.
- HPHS Garden, 55 Forest St.

- Hudson Street, 356 Hudson St.
- Huntington Street, 37 Hungtington St.
- Laurel Street, 75 Laurel St.
- Mt. Moriah Garden, 151 Earle St.
- Niles Street, 17 Niles St.
- Pope Park, 1000 Park St.
- Sargeant Street, 256 Sargeant St.
- Watkinson, 50 Bloomfield Ave.
- West End, 165 Girard Ave.
- Winter/Green, 17 Winter St.

Zoom Conference on Vaccine

Continued from page 2

where to get the person an appointment. The city is starting a second round of research to determine what community partners are consulted for information.

What about unregistered or undocumented people? The Malta House of Care will be partnering to help organize mobile clinics.

How long can you wait for your second dose of the vaccine? What happens if you wait longer than 4-6 weeks? Do you have to start over? First, try to schedule at the same location. It’s critical to keep the card you’re given after the first dose, but that information can also be found in the VAM system or CT WiZ, the state Immunization

Information System. It will ensure that you get the right vaccine, and the second dose batch number will be registered with the first one.

What if you already have had COVID? Should you still get vaccinated? Yes, you should. You’ll have to wait 10-14 days after testing positive. If you’ve had the antibody treatment you will have to wait longer.

Which vaccines are “better”? **Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson and Johnson?** Keith Grant said “The brand that is available is the best.” The goal of being vaccinated is to prevent death or becoming very ill and being hospitalized. All three primary vaccines have achieved 100 % effectiveness in preventing

death and critical illnesses.

What identification do people need to get vaccinated? Liany Arroyo explained that they ask for ID to ascertain someone’s identity. Bring anything that has your picture and name on it, or a work ID. You will then need to provide proof that you live or work in Hartford. If you’re a childcare provider, you have already been registered in Connecticut, and this information has already been transferred to the state Health department.

Will there be people available who speak other languages when and where you get vaccinated? Spanish speakers are available, but for less common languages they have to use the language line.

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Church Space for Rent

Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor’s office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998.

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El Informativo Latino

Maestros, personal escolar y proveedores de cuidado infantil en CT serán elegibles para la vacuna en Marzo

El gobernador de Connecticut, Ned Lamont, anunció el próximo grupo de personas que serán elegibles para la vacuna contra el coronavirus, que incluirá a maestros, personal escolar y proveedores de cuidado infantil.

Actualmente, las personas de 65 años o más son elegibles para la vacuna como parte de la Fase 1B.

A partir de marzo, aquellos que trabajan como personal y maestros de escuelas de pre-K-12, y proveedores profesionales de cuidado infantil también serán elegibles para la vacuna. El estado dijo que habrá clínicas dedicadas específicamente a ese grupo objetivo. Aquellos que trabajan en campos elegibles deben recibir información de su empleador sobre cómo programar una cita en una de esas clínicas.

Esta lista de prioridades incluye maestros, servicios de conserjería, empleados de servicios de alimentos, conductores de autobuses, voluntarios en clase, personal administrativo de la escuela y proveedores profesionales de atención médica. No incluirá a los empleados que no necesitan estar en un edificio escolar, aquellos que trabajan a distancia o miembros de la junta escolar.

El lunes, la oficina del gobernador también publicó un nuevo calendario para la elegibilidad basada en la edad durante los próximos meses. Aquellos elegibles para recibir la vacuna en función de su profesión no necesitan cumplir con ningún requisito de edad adicional.

Lamont dijo que este es un esfuerzo para que las escuelas vuelvan a abrir lo más rápido posible y evitar los cierres de cuarentena del personal escolar.

La línea de tiempo basada en la



edad es la siguiente:

- 1 de marzo de 2021: se expande al grupo de edad de 55 a 64
- 22 de marzo de 2021: se expande al grupo de edad de 45 a 54
- 12 de abril de 2021: se expande al grupo de edad de 35 a 44
- 3 de mayo de 2021: se expande al grupo de edad de 16 a 34 años

"En un mundo perfecto, tendríamos suficientes dosis de la vacuna para llevarla a los 3.6 millones de personas en Connecticut en este momento, sin embargo, a cada estado se le está dando un suministro muy limitado, por lo que debemos adoptar este enfoque por etapas", dijo el gobernador. Lamont dijo en un comunicado. "Los proveedores de atención médica de Connecticut han estado haciendo un trabajo increíble al llevar la vacuna a las personas lo más rápido posible, y usar la edad como el único factor de calificación es una de las razones por las que han tenido éxito hasta ahora. Lo último que queremos hacer es complicarles el proceso y provocar retrasos que ralentizan las cosas y agravan los problemas relacionados con el acceso equitativo "

Lamont dijo en una conferencia de prensa el lunes que el estado se estaba enfocando en dos piezas clave de distribución de vacunas:

Velocidad: vacunar a la mayor cantidad de personas lo más rápido posible, especialmente aquellas con factores de riesgo relacionados con la edad.

Equidad: llegar a las comunidades desatendidas para garantizar que tengan acceso a la vacuna.

La parte de equidad de esto se centrará en la divulgación y el acceso a las comunidades con clínicas móviles u opciones de transporte. También se centrará en abordar las dudas sobre las vacunas en comunidades que históricamente desconfían del sistema de salud.

Esta vacuna es una ruptura con las pautas de distribución de los CDC, pero el gobernador dijo que las pautas de los CDC son demasiado amplias para ser implementadas de manera efectiva.

"Está generando una gran confusión en otros estados porque algunos lo hacen muy complicado", dijo, señalando los diferentes requisitos de elegibilidad para cosas como cheques de pago y notas del médico para probar un tipo específico de empleo o condiciones médicas.

Mientras tanto, la tasa de positividad de COVID-19 de Connecticut siguió estando por debajo del 3% el lunes, llegando al 2,58%.

De las 86,401 pruebas reportadas el lunes, 2,233 dieron positivo por coronavirus.

Hay 35 personas menos hospitalizadas en el estado con COVID-19, lo que reduce el total de hospitalizaciones actuales a 500. Treinta y nueve personas más perdieron la vida en Connecticut a causa de la enfermedad, lo que eleva el número de muertos en el estado a 7.562. By Iris Rodriguez

Descansa En Paz Pedro García



El Sr. Pedro García nació en el pueblo de Patillas Puerto Rico, de una familia humilde. Para la época de los 1960s llegó a la ciudad de Hartford Connecticut, con la inquietud de trabajar en los medios de comunicación. Para esa época había una radio emisora en la ciudad de Windsor, Connecticut en esa radioemisora. Aunque era una emisora Americana comenzó los fines de semana con un programa titulado Asi Canta Puerto Rico con nuestra música típica, dando a conocer nuestra cultura y tradiciones. lo cual tuvo una gran acogida unas las pocas familia puertorriqueña que residían en Hartford y áreas adyacentes. El Sr. Pedro García por su humildad se ganó el cariño del pueblo pasó el tiempo y el pueblo lo apoyaba.

En el 1968 comenzó a trabajar en la reconocida emisora WLVH La Grande De Connecticut, Trabajo por varios años con su compañeros el Sr. Pablo De Jesus, Sr. Rickie Collazo y el Sr. Vitin García siempre con su programa Asi Canta Puerto Rico orgulloso de su Puerto Rico y su gente. Fue uno de los organizadores del Desfile Puertorriqueño, siempre con su inquietud de dar a conocer su cultura y sus raíces.

Terminó sus labores WLVH y comenzó a trabajar en la emisora 8.40 AM WYRM, donde el público lo seguía por su forma de ser Sr. Pedro García, Pionero De La Radio En Connecticut.

Paso a mejor vida pero siempre lo recordaremos con orgullo por todo lo que hizo para beneficio de nuestra comunidad. Descansa En Paz Amigo, Pedro García.

By Wilfredo Ayala

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